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BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.



ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1946

BY

GEORGE NICHOLSON

M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health for Tiverton

AND

CHARLES JEFFRIES

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector

BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1946.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE
AUTHORITY

(a)

Part time M.O.H.:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Medical Officer to the Isolation Hospital:

T. N. RUDD, M.D., M.R.C.P.

District Medical Officer to Guardians:

G. NICHOLSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

(b)

Public Analyst:

A. H. MITCHELL

Sanitary Inspector:

CHARLES JEFFRIES,

Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH to the Borough of Tiverton For the year ended 31st December, 1946.

11, ST. PETER STREET,
TIVERTON,

September, 1947.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

Area. Although the Borough covers an area of 17,680 acres, the Town itself covers 300 acres only.

Population. 10,770.

Inhabited Houses. Number in 1946 was 2,995.

Rateable Value is £65,624.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £261.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Legitimate	193	102	91	Birth Rate : 19·4 per 1000
	Illegitimate	16	7	9	
Still Births		3	1	2	Rate per 1000 Births 14·3
Illegitimate Still Births Nil.					
Deaths	...	139	65	74	Death Rate : 12·7 per 1000

Deaths from Pregnancy and Childbirth, 1; Puerperal Sepsis 0; other causes 0. The birth rate is high.

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age. All infants per 1000 live births ... 41.0.

Legitimate infants per 1000, legitimate live births 41.4

Illegitimate infants, under one year, per 1000 illegitimate births ... 62.5

Deaths from Measles ... Nil

„ Whooping Cough ... Nil

„ Diarrhoea ... Nil

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.5, and the Birth Rate 19.1. The Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales was 43 per 1,000 live Births.

Deaths from Cancer: Stomach and Duodenum 6, Breast 3, Other sites 11. Total 20.

Cancer was the cause in one out of every seven deaths.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1—NURSING IN THE HOME. No change.

2—There is one Midwife practising in the Area, in addition to the four district nurses.

3—LABORATORY FACILITIES—There are two in the Area—the County Laboratory and that connected with the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital.

4—HOSPITALS. There are two in the Area. The TIVERTON JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL has proved seriously inadequate owing to the lack of staff which, I am given to understand, is unobtainable.

TIVERTON AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL deals with surgical, medical and maternity cases. There are 45 beds, 11 of which are devoted to maternity cases. Accommodation is very strained at times in all departments and is not really adequate. Maternity cases are regularly refused admission owing to lack of space.

A Tuberculosis Clinic is now held at the above Hospital twice monthly.

5—INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.
None in the Area.

6—AMBULANCE FACILITIES. No change.

7—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES :—

Out-patient departments (under control of the Local Authority)—School Minor Ailments, each morning, 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays, S.M.O. in attendance, 9 to 12 noon.

Maternity & Child Welfare Centre. This Centre is open once weekly.

The attendances for 1946 were as follows :—

Total infants attending for first time	...	...	125
„ children, 1 to 5 years, attending for first time	...	...	11
Number on Register at end of year—Mothers	...	...	276
„ „ „ Infants	...	...	207
„ „ „ 1 to 5 years	...	...	69
Number of attendances during 1946—Mothers	...	...	2365
„ „ „ Infants	...	...	2305
„ „ „ 1 to 5 years	...	...	384

The Mothers and Children have had supervision and advice both at the Welfare weekly by the Medical Officer and the Health Visitor, and in their houses by the Health Visitor. Simple treatment has been given where considered sufficient, in other cases the mothers were referred to their private doctor for treatment.

The ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC was held on 50 Tuesdays during the year—12 sessions by the Surgeon and 38 by the after-care Sister.

Number on Register, 1/1/46	..	...	349
„ 31/12/46	...	...	396
Sessions held	...	...	50
New Cases	...	...	242
Discharges	...	..	195
Voluntary Cases on Register, 31/12/46	...	...	175
Admitted to Hospital	...	...	24
Average weekly attendance	...	...	26.2
Number of Attendances	...	...	1301
Admissions :—Adults			
	...	...	119
School Age...			
	...	...	102
Infants			
	...	...	20

Tuberculosis cases :—1 Adult

Some of the elder patients have been trained at St. Loye's College for the Disabled, in connection with the Clinic, the aim being the complete rehabilitation of the patients.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

SCABIES. This appears to be diminishing.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION. A regular monthly clinic is held for this purpose and it is well attended, with the result that immunization is maintained in the region of 90 per cent. As a consequence Diphtheria has become a rarity in the Borough and even when it occurs it usually affects adults whereas previously of course it was principally a disease of children.

Since 1938 a total of 2,158 cases have had full immunization. (208 complete cases in Borough in year).

TUBERCULOSIS. New Cases and Mortality in 1946.

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1				1				
5				1				
10								
15	1				1			
20	1	1				1		
25	1	1		1				
35		1				1		
45								
55								
65 and over								
Totals	3	3		3	1	2		

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

AGE INCIDENCE.

Age Period	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Sonne Dysentery
Under 1 year								
1 to 2								
2 to 3		1				2	10	
3 to 4						1		
4 to 5							14	
5 to 10	1					2	6	
10 to 15	1						3	
15 to 20	1						1	
20 to 25								
25 to 30			1					
30 to 35								
35 to 45								
45 to 65								
65 and over								
Age Unknown		1						
Totals	3	2	1			5	34	

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925). No action taken.

Public Health Act, 1925. No action taken.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NICHOLSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

to the Borough of Tiverton

1st January to 31st December, 1946.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
TOWN HALL, TIVERTON.

June 18th, 1947.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF TIVERTON.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present this, my first Annual Report on the work carried out in my department during the year ended 31st December, 1946.

While the post-war difficulties have rendered it impossible to carry out any programme of slum clearance or abatement of over-crowding, considerable work has been accomplished in the repair of serious housing defects and the abatement of nuisances.

The Council's Points Scheme for the selection of Council house tenants was started soon after I commenced my duties as Sanitary Inspector, necessitating a complete inspection of the houses of each applicant and in many cases subsequent re-visits. Owing to the three months which elapsed between Mr. Dennis relinquishing and my taking up the appointment, a volume of work accumulated and this, in conjunction with a large number of inspections, necessitated by the Points Scheme, threw a heavy burden of work on the members of the department.

Owing to the large number of dairy farms situated within the Borough boundaries, many inspections and advisory visits in connection with re-conditioning cow-sheds and improvements to farm water supplies have been necessary. Finally, the routine duties in connection with Meat Inspection at the Council's Abattoir, condemnation of unsound food and water sampling, have been duly carried out.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER SUPPLY. The Public main water supplies of the district have been satisfactory both in quantity and quality, and regular samples have been taken and analysed at monthly intervals. The Allers supply is filtered and chlorinated and the Warnicombe supply chlorinated.

RESULTS OF SAMPLING. PUBLIC MAIN SUPPLIES.

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Allers	10	10	0
Warnicombe	19	10	9

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE. Regular collections of refuse and salvage have been maintained.

	SALVAGE			KITCHEN WASTE		
	tons	cwts.	qrs.	tons	cwts.	qrs.
January	8	5	2	6	10	1
February	4	8	1	6	10	3
March	6	0	0	6	15	0
April	6	2	0	8	8	0
May	5	11	2	9	2	1
June	6	17	0	7	8	1
July	5	18	0	7	6	0
August	6	18	1	7	18	2
September	6	2	3	8	19	0
October	6	5	2	9	7	0
November	7	13	0	7	14	0
December	6	6	2	6	11	3
TOTALS	76	8	1	92	10	3

Inspection and Supervision of Meat and Foods.

160 Visits of Inspection were made to the Council's Abattoir for the purpose of Meat Inspection.

The following table shows the numbers of animals slaughtered at the Public Abattoir during the year:—

Beasts.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Private Pigs.
649	1375	3980	65	47

This makes a total of 6,116 animals examined during the year.

The following is a list of the meat and offal condemned as diseased or unsound :—

BEEF.

No. of Carcases.	Disease.	Weight. lbs.
20	Generalised T.B.	9282
3	T.B. and Emaciation	1139
1	T.B. and Dropsy	260
3	T.B., Dropsy and Emaciation	1161
4	Emaciation and Dropsy	1543
1	Septicæmia and Dropsy	523
3	Septicæmia	1733
1	Pleurisy and Peritonitis	395
1	Pyæmia and External Bruising	497
1	Odæma and External Bruising	674
1	Septicæmia and Inflammation	348
1	Fever and Inflammation	500
1	General and Deep Bruising	506
1	Nephritis and Emaciation	562
1	Jaundice and Inflammation	582
<hr/>		<hr/>
43		19705 lbs.

Parts of Carcases.	Disease.	Weight lbs.
3 Hind-quarters	T.B.	389
5 Fore quarters	T.B.	515
2 Sides of Neck	T.B.	35
2 Shoulders	T.B.	150
2 Flanks	Inflammation	20
Flank Trimmings	Inflammation and Dropsy	23
1 Hind-quarter	Injury	67
Part Hind-quarter	Bruising	30
		<hr/>
		1229 lbs.

	Disease	Weight lbs.
OFFAL.	T.B.	6294
	Various	6331
		<hr/> 12625 lbs.

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total Weight of BEEF Condemned	9	6	3	18
Total Weight of BEEF OFFAL „	5	12	2	25

CALVES.

No. of Carcases	Disease.	Weight lbs.
1	Septicæmia	47
2	Fever	92
1	Pneumonia, Pleurisy	48
2	Emaciation	59
1	Actinimycosis	36
1	Jaundice	94
1	Inflammation	31
2	General T.B.	206
2	General Dropsy	82
		<hr/> 695 lbs.

Parts of Carcases	Disease.	Weight lbs.
2 Legs and 1 Part Leg	Bruising	28
Loin of Veal	Ulcers	16
		<hr/> 44

OFFAL.	T.B.	34
	Various	204
		<hr/> 238

	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total Weight of VEAL Condemned	6	2	11
Total Weight of CALVES' OFFAL Condemned	2	0	14

SHEEP.

No. of Carcases	Disease	Weight lbs.
4	Septicæmia	236
7	Dropsy	233
12	Dropsy and Emaciation	467
3	Pyæmia	206
1	Injury and Gangrene	26
7	Septic Pneumonia	364
3	Pneumonia and Insufficiency of Bleeding	148
2	General Dropsy and Pneumonia	89
4	Emaciation and Anæmia	138
4	Inefficiency of Bleeding	200
1	Injuries	50
10	Gangrenous Pneumonia	348
3	Emaciation	105
1	Septic Metritis	60
4	Inflammation and Dropsy	594
15	Inflammation	286
1	Jaundice	60
1	Jaundice and Inflammation	46
1	Pyæmia and Pleurisy	64
1	Jaundice and Dropsy	69
1	Odæma	54
1	Insufficiency and Emaciation	19
1	Pleuro-Pneumonia and Dropsy	49
1	Pneumonia	80
		<hr/>
		3991 lbs.

Parts of Carcases	Disease	Weight lbs.
Carcase Trimmings	Injury and Bruising	57
Part of Hind-quarters	Inflammation	58
Fore-quarters	Pleurisy	19
		<hr/>
		134 lbs.

	tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Total Weight of MUTTON Condemned	1	16	3	9
Total Weight of SHEEP OFFAL ,,	1	0	0	21

PIGS.

No. of Carcases	Disease	Weight lbs.
1	T.B.	120
1	Inflammation	89
		<hr/> 209 lbs.
Parts of Carcases		
1 Hind Leg	Injury	42
1 Fore-quarters	Pleurisy and Pneumonia	80
		<hr/> 122 lbs.
OFFAL.	T.B.	32
	Various	55
		<hr/> 87 lbs.
Total Weight of PORK Condemned		cwts. 2 qrs. 3 lbs. 23
Total Weight of PIGS' OFFAL Condemned		3 3

UN SOUND FOOD. 51 visits were made to Food Premises in connection with the condemnation of Unsound Food. The following is a list of food condemned:—

Description	Weight lbs.	Description	Weight lbs.
Beef	398	Dried Milk	21
Mutton	46½	Tinned Vegetables	104
Sheep Livers	37½	Piccalilli	10
Corned Beef	29	Paste	1
Chopped Pork	39	Tinned Fruit	24
Stewed Steak	17	Dried Fruit	309
Baked Beans	111	Honey	2
Meat & Veg. Ration	2	Marmalade	87
Tongue	2	Syrup	8
Party Loaf	1	Cheese	16
Soup	34	Butter	1½
Fish	168	Corn Flakes	7
Tinned Fish	119	Oats	384
Tinned Milk	258	Biscuits	16

Total Weight of Food Condemned 1 ton. 10 lbs.

Housing Inspection.

A total of 349 houses were inspected in connection with the Council's Points Scheme for the letting of Council Houses, and the information regarding the condition of the properties so gained should prove most valuable in future housing inspection work required by the Housing Acts.

Inspections	...	349
Re-visits	...	35

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Houses for Overcrowding	...	...	4
Factories	...	...	24
Food Shops	..	...	58
Slaughterhouse Visits	...	...	160
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	127
Complaints Investigated	...	...	82
Re-visits following Complaints		...	100
Infectious Disease Visits	...	...	9
Water Samples taken for Analysis—			
Public Mains	...	...	29
Other Premises and Farms		...	20
Samples of Milk taken for Analysis	...		52
Visits to Private Schools re Milk Supply			5
Drains Tested	...	...	32
Drainage Inspections	...	...	73
Rodent Control Inspections	...	...	66
Stables Inspected	...	.	12
Piggeries Inspected	...	...	1
Re Keeping of Animals	...	...	4
Council's Housing Points Scheme		...	384
Re Requisitioning Premises	...	...	8
Housing Rural Workers' Act		...	6
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	54
Total			1310

Administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

Premises	Inspections	Written Notices
Factories with Mechanical Power	16	2
Factories without Mechanical Power	8	2
Total	<u>24</u>	<u>4</u>

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars	No. of Defects.	
	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	12	12
Overcrowding	1	1
Unreasonable Temperature	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	1	1
Ineffective Drainage of Floors	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences—Inadequate	10	10
Total	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>

Rodent Control.

A complete initial treatment, followed by two maintenance treatments, has been carried out to the Council's sewers and infestation reduced to a minimum. Systematic treatments have also been carried out at the Council's refuse tip, salvage depot and sewage disposal works with excellent results.

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find evidence of rats within the urban area of the Borough and, when it becomes possible, for us to extend our activities to the neighbouring farms, I am confident we shall see a still further reduction in the number of rats in this area.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

CHARLES JEFFRIES,

M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.,

Borough Sanitary Inspector.

